

Application No.: 09/512,306

Docket No.: 20402-00602-US

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 to 18, pending in the office action, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Thomas et al. (5,666,645) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas et al.

The cited Thomas et al. reference fails to disclose the claimed relationship between the program guide information producing apparatus and the program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus.

In this respect, the data management and distribution system disclosed in Thomas et al. cannot attain the objects of the present invention.

The present invention has an object to provide a program guide information producing apparatus which is not adversely influenced by problems caused in the program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus, in order to assure reliable transmission of common program guide information in each broadcaster. Furthermore, the present invention has an object to provide a program guide information producing apparatus which is capable of quickly renewing the common program guide information in response to the sudden change of the broadcasting schedule. Moreover, the present invention has an object to provide a program guide information collecting/transmitting system incorporating the above-described program guide information producing apparatus.

With reference to the digital broadcasting program guide information collecting/transmitting system shown in Fig. 18 of the application, problems will arise if a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus 101 is in trouble or if the network connecting broadcasting center systems to the program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus 101 is in trouble. In such cases, each broadcaster cannot renew the common program guide information. If the trouble lasts long (e.g., when the effective broadcast time of the

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presently aired common program guide information expires), each broadcaster will be unable to output the common program guide information itself. Furthermore, each broadcaster receives all the broadcasters' common program guide information covering all of the broadcasters after the program organizing information is once transmitted to the program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus 101. Accordingly, another problem will arise if the broadcasting schedule is suddenly changed due to extension of a sports event program or interruption by urgent or emergency news. In such cases, it is difficult to quickly renew the common program guide information in response to the sudden change of the broadcasting schedule. This will cause problems in each broadcast receiver 107, for example in the tuning operation and in the audio/video tape recording reservation or the like.

The same problems will arise in the data management and distribution system disclosed in Thomas et al.

The present invention solves the problems by providing the program guide information producing apparatus having characteristic features as defined in amended claim 1, i.e. self-produced information transmitting section (201), common program guide information receiving section (202), program guide information output section (203), common program guide information producing section (204), and program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (101).

Furthermore, the invention provides the program guide information collecting/transmitting system having characteristic features clearly defined in amended claim 13, i.e. program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (101), and broadcasters (A, ---, N) each including program guide information producing apparatus (102).

The Thomas et al. reference fails to disclose the above-identified problem solving characteristic features defined in these amended independent claims.

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In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20402-00602-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

4/8/05

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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